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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Reverend Byron Brought, Calvary United Methodist Church, Annapolis, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

For a few passing years, O God, You have entrusted these Representatives with the gift of authority and leadership. May they do no harm. Keep them free from the temptation of seeking personal gain or glory. Save them from the mediocrity of trivial debate. Guide them in these challenging days.

May there ever be mutual respect and cooperation among them. Remind them that they are servants of the people, and through their actions may the people be served, the poor lifted up, and Your creation respected. Give them the grace and the wisdom to discern what is right, and give them the courage to do it. May justice and peace flourish throughout this good land.

In Your Holy Name we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. FOXX led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 725. An act to protect Indian arts and crafts through the improvement of applicable criminal proceedings, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1508. An act to amend the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002 (31 U.S.C. 3321 note) in order to prevent the loss of billions in taxpayer dollars.

WELCOMING REVEREND BYRON BROUGHT

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. SARBANES. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure and honor to welcome Reverend Byron Brought to Congress this morning. Reverend Brought is retiring this month after serving the Maryland community for more than 40 years as a spiritual leader and mentor.

Since 1992, Reverend Brought has served as Senior Pastor at Calvary United Methodist Church in Annapolis, Maryland. Prior to his appointment at Calvary, he presided over several United Methodist ministries in the Baltimore-Washington Conference. His many accomplishments include serving on various community councils, including terms as President of the Baltimore-Washington Conference Board of Pensions and the Council on Finance and Administration.

Reverend Brought is the proud husband of Mary Kay, father to two children, and grandfather to soon to be four grandchildren. I ask my colleagues

in the House of Representatives to join with me in congratulating Reverend Brought on a career of dedication and service.

□ 1010

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 10 additional 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

INTRODUCING THE SWEEP ACT

(Mr. WILSON of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, this week, Congressman GLENN NYE and I introduced the SWEEP Act.

This legislation would require that an independent, bipartisan commission be established to review Federal programs and to make recommendations for those that should be eliminated, consolidated, or have their funding reduced. Most importantly, this bill would require Congress to have an up-or-down vote on the commission's recommendations. There are many programs that have outlived their original purpose. The SWEEP Act will help us to weed out programs that are no longer needed, and that will help our bottom line.

This bill is part of a comprehensive 10-bill package that I'm either cosponsoring or writing to help tackle our national debt. Each of the 10 bills in my plan does one of three things that working families do as they deal with their own finances: They make commonsense spending decisions. They trim the fat. They chip away at their everyday debt.

The SWEEP Act will help trim the fat, and I am proud to help bring this bill to Congress. I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important bill.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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